

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-44 (Cancelled).

45. (Currently Amended) A method for inserting an intervertebral implant, comprising:
accessing a collapsed spinal disc space;
sequentially inserting and removing a number of implants into the collapsed spinal disc
space, each of said implants providing a different restored disc space height when inserted in the
disc space, the spinal disc space at least partially collapsing when the inserted implant is removed
therefrom; and
leaving in the spinal disc space the implant from the number of implants providing a
restored disc space height corresponding to a desired disc space height to post-operatively
maintain the desired disc space height. The method of claim 44, wherein each implant of the
number of implants has a leading end portion with a nose portion having the same height for each
of the number of implants.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, ~~claim 44~~, wherein said height of said
nose portions is about 3 to 4 millimeters.

47. (Currently amended) A method for inserting an intervertebral implant, comprising:
accessing a collapsed spinal disc space from an uni-portal approach;
~~inserting a first implant through the portal into the spinal disc space to provide a restored~~
~~disc space height;~~
~~removing the inserted first implant from the spinal disc space through the portal such that~~
~~the spinal disc space is non-distorted;~~
selecting ~~an a second~~ implant from a number of implants sequentially implant
subsequently inserted and removed through the portal each providing a restored disc space height
differing ~~from the restored disc space height of the first implant and from one another, the~~
~~selected second implant being the first of said number of implants providing a restored disc space~~
~~height that corresponds to a desired disc space height, wherein each implant of the number of~~
implants has a leading end portion with a nose portion having the same height for each of the
number of implants; and
post-operatively maintaining the desired disc space height with the ~~selected second~~
implant in the spinal disc space.

Response to Final Office Action

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